

H. B. 2966

(By Delegates Moye, Williams, P. Smith, Longstreth and Perry)

[Introduced February 24, 2015; referred to the

Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-13, relating to the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program; making legislative findings and intent; creating the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Fund; and requesting additional funds to be added to the fund.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-13, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

§19-1-13. Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Fund.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has participated in the Senior Farmers’

Market Nutrition Program since the program’s inception in 2001 and competes with other states for

federal grant funding. The Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program currently provides vouchers

1 to eligible seniors to purchase produce at farmers markets around the state.

2 (2) The voucher is beneficial to both the seniors who receive the health benefits of additional
3 produce in their diets and local farmers benefit from the additional moneys being used to purchase
4 produce at local farmers' markets.

5 (3) According to the Center for Disease Control, healthy diets rich in fruits and vegetables
6 may reduce the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. Fruits and vegetables also provide essential
7 vitamins and minerals, fiber and other substances that are important for good health.

8 (4) In 2010, twenty-three thousand seven hundred fifty eligible seniors received \$20 in
9 vouchers.

10 (5) The state should consider adding \$30 to the amount of the current voucher.

11 (b) There is created a "Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund" with the specific
12 purpose of supplementing the federal funds received for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition
13 Program.

14 (c) Moneys in the "Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund" at the close of the
15 fiscal year remain in the "Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund" and do not lapse to the
16 general revenue.

17 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to create a fund subject to general
18 revenue appropriation to provide for additional moneys to be used for the Senior Farmers' Market
19 Nutrition Program.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to develop a Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund within the Department of Agriculture. The bill also asks that the state consider adding an additional \$30 to the \$20 in vouchers that eligible seniors received in 2010.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.